



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 743

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 7354

House of Representatives, May 3, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION FOR CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INTERNET SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 4d-80 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (c) The commission shall:

5 (1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state
6 government;

7 (2) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide
8 technology goals including:

9 (A) Connecting all institutions of higher education, libraries, public
10 elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service centers
11 and other parties through a state-wide high speed, flexible network

12 that will allow for video, voice and data transmission;

13 (B) Wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the Internet
14 and to the state-wide high speed network through wired, wireless, or
15 any other digital transmission technology providing high speed
16 connectivity;

17 (C) Providing access for all public schools, public libraries and
18 libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full
19 text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other
20 collections in order to maximize buying power;

21 (D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,
22 competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;

23 (E) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the
24 integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school
25 teachers;

26 (F) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide range
27 of course and degree programs via the Internet and through other
28 synchronous and asynchronous methods;

29 (G) Ensuring that teachers in public schools have access to
30 professional development in on-line instruction and that students
31 attending public schools have equitable on-line access to courses,
32 including, but not limited to, the following: (i) Dual credit and
33 advanced placement courses, (ii) courses in low enrollment areas, (iii)
34 courses for credit recovery, and (iv) workforce training courses.

35 (3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational
36 institutions and other parties involved in the creation and
37 management of a reliable and secure network that will offer
38 connectivity and allow for the transmission of video, voice and data
39 transmission to every library, school, regional educational service
40 center and institution of higher education;

41 (4) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General Assembly

42 and local, state and federal organizations and entities with respect to
43 educational technology matters;

44 (5) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related
45 recommendations for the coordination of educational technology. The
46 plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for using
47 telecommunications and information technology to improve
48 education, (B) include a professional development strategy to ensure
49 that teachers and faculty know how to use the new technologies to
50 improve education, (C) include an assessment of the
51 telecommunications, hardware, software and other services that will
52 be needed to improve education, and (D) include an evaluation
53 process that monitors progress towards the specified goals;

54 (6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites
55 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained
56 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions
57 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other
58 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in
59 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all
60 potential users;

61 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
62 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,
63 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials
64 in educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory
65 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular
66 discipline significant to the work of the commission;

67 (8) On or before January 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
68 commission shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, on its
69 activities, progress made in the attainment of the state-wide
70 technology goals as outlined in the long-range plan and any
71 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
72 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
73 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, the State Board of
74 Education, and the Board of Governors of Higher Education. The

75 report shall include recommendations for adjustments to the funding
76 formula for grants pursuant to section 10-262n if there are school
77 districts that are at a disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and
78 the use of technology in their schools;

79 (9) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
80 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
81 provisions of this section;

82 (10) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of
83 this section.

84 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Each local or regional board of
85 education shall require that any school under its jurisdiction with
86 grade three, four or five provide instruction on the safe use of the
87 Internet to students in such grades.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	4d-80(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	850,000	850,000
Charter Oak College	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$	
All Municipalities	Cost	None	None	Potential

Explanation

A total of \$850,000 within the State Department of Education is included in each year of the biennium in the budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee for the purpose of a distance learning system for Connecticut elementary and secondary schools. Such funding comes from the anticipated FY 07 surplus. Beyond the biennium the system would be self supporting through a fee for use structure. The project would be accomplished with the support of Charter Oak State College's Distance Learning Consortium.

Additionally the bill requires local and regional school districts to provide instruction in safe Internet use to students in grades three, four and five which is anticipated to have little to no fiscal impact on local and regional school districts as most already meet this mandate.

The Out Years

The distance learning system would be supported through fees paid by participating local and regional school districts in the out years.

The potential future cost to participating local and regional school districts is anticipated to be minimal in the scope of overall local budgets.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7354*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION FOR CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INTERNET SAFETY.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill expands the list of statewide technology goals, which the Commission on Educational Technology must develop, oversee, and direct attainment of, to include ensuring that (1) public school teachers have access to professional development in on-line instruction and (2) public school students have equitable on-line access to courses. These courses can include dual credit and advanced placement courses, courses in low-enrollment areas, courses for credit recovery, and workforce training courses.

The bill also mandates boards of education to require their schools to provide instruction on the safe use of the Internet to students in grades three through five.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***Statewide Technology Goals***

Statewide technology goals include:

1. connecting higher education institutions, libraries, public schools, regional education service centers, and others through a statewide, high-speed, flexible video, voice, and data transmission network;
2. wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the network and the Internet;

3. access for all public libraries to a core set of on-line, full-text resources and to collaborative purchasing for other collections;
4. in cooperation with the State Board of Education, ensuring student competency in computing by the sixth grade;
5. ensuring public school teacher competency in specific computing skills and integrating technology into the curriculum; and
6. ensuring that higher education institutions offer a wide range of online and distance-learning courses and degree programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/28/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)